



West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 67
Elkins, WV 26241
304-637-0245



Bowden Fishing Derby Shines!



The 12th Annual Hooked-on-Fishing-Not-on-Drugs (HOFNOD) Fishing Derby held at the Bowden Fish Hatchery Saturday, June 7 attracted nearly 500 participants, despite the often torrential rain. Although the day was wet, spirits weren't dampened in the least with hundreds of children from ages 3 to 15 participating in the fun-filled day. To make the day even more special, nearly all the children caught their two trout limit with many young anglers catching their first fish during the event. For others, the derby was the first time they had ever been trout fishing.

Drawings were held throughout the event for each age group, with fishing rod and reel combos and t-shirts being awarded. Each child who participated in the casting contest received a ribbon and prizes such as t-shirts, frisbees, tackle; three winners who cast best won a tackle box. The local



Kiwanis Club provided free Polaroid photos of the kids with their catches and local volunteer fishermen manned the fish cleaning station. Many kids, with the assistance of volunteers from Trout Unlimited, experienced their first opportunity to use a fly rod at the Catch and Release Pond. A representative from Leland Lures also provided Trout Magnets for everyone who wanted one.

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Elkins Parks & Recreation Commission, the U.S. Forest Service and the Randolph County HOFNOD Committee sponsored the event. Wheelers Sporting Goods, Wal-Mart and the Hidden Springs Store also provided materials to the event. A special thanks goes to the many volunteers at the derby that make this an enjoyable experience for everyone!

